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April 19, 2002

To: County and District Superintendents of Schools  
County and District Chief Business Officials

From: Janet Sterling, Director  
School Fiscal Services Division

Subject: **Fees for Pupil Transportation**

*Education Code* Section 39807.5 requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, to determine the maximum amount of fees that parents or guardians may be charged for pupil transportation between home and school. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with that information.

### **Maximum Rates**

As specified in *Education Code* Section 39807.5, these rates are the maximums that apply to pupil transportation for regular day students. They also apply to students in regular full-time occupational training classes as provided by a regional occupational center or program. The amount of the actual fee determined by the local governing board "shall be no greater than the statewide average nonsubsidized cost of providing this transportation to a pupil on a publicly owned or operated transit system as determined by the SSPI, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation." "Nonsubsidized cost" means actual operating costs less federal subventions.

The maximum allowable rates are expressed on a "cost-per-trip" basis. Daily round trip pupil transportation is, then, twice the trip rate. The maximum rates are:

Cost per passenger trip:	\$3.02
Daily round trip:	\$6.04

### **Limit on Total Fees Collected**

Please note that *Education Code* Section 39809.5 requires that the sum of the state aid received and the parent fees collected in a fiscal year shall not exceed the actual operating costs of pupil transportation in the same fiscal year. In computing whether excess fees were collected by a school district, subtract fee income and state transportation apportionments received from the sum of the approved transportation costs for home-to-school and special education reported on the Annual Report of Pupil Transportation, electronic data processing (EDP) 130 and 133. If excess fees were collected, the school district must reduce its fees in succeeding years.

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*Education Code* Section 39809.5 also requires that a school district certify to the county superintendent that the school district levied fees in accordance with law, and that, where appropriate, fees have been reduced and excess fees eliminated.

**Exclusions and Limitations**

For information regarding exclusions and limitations, please refer to the enclosed Program Advisory adopted by the State Board of Education on June 9, 1995, relating to the school transportation fee exemption for handicapped children and pupils whose parents or guardians are indigent.

If you have questions concerning the information provided in this letter, please contact Leslie McCage at (916) 324-4537 or by e-mail ([lmccage@cde.ca.gov](mailto:lmccage@cde.ca.gov)), or Ging Tucker at (916) 324-4536 or by e-mail ([gtucker@cde.ca.gov](mailto:gtucker@cde.ca.gov)).

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Enclosure

To receive a copy of the State Board of Education Program Advisory by mail or FAX, contact Leslie McCage at the above phone number or e-mail address
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